

Application Serial No. 09/742,308
Amendment after final dated December 14, 2004
Reply to final Office action of November 17, 2004

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 8 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 2, 3, and 5 through 8 are amended herein. Claims 13 through 19 are cancelled herein without prejudice or disclaimer. Support for the amendments to the claims may be found in the claims as originally filed. Reconsideration is requested based on the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112:

Claims 1 through 8 and 13 through 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which is not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. Claim 1 has been amended substantially as suggested by the Examiner. The Applicant thanks the Examiner for his suggestion. Claims 1 through 8 are thus submitted to be in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejection is earnestly solicited.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claims 1 through 8 and 13 through 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Whetstone in view of Ferrero (or vice-versa) further in view of Bassett, Moderer, Moses, Boon, Terrasi, and Klahn, et al. Claim 1 has been amended substantially as suggested by the Examiner. The Applicant thanks the Examiner for his suggestion. Claim 1 is thus submitted to be in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 is earnestly solicited.

Claims 2 through 8 depend from claim 1 and add additional distinguishing elements. Claims 2 through 8 are thus also submitted to be allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2 through 8 is earnestly solicited.

Conclusion:

Accordingly, in view of the reasons given above, it is submitted that all claims 1 through 8 are allowable over the cited references. Since the claims were amended to overcome the rejections based on 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, it is submitted that all of claims 1 through 8 are now allowable. Allowance of all claims 1 through 8 and of this entire application are

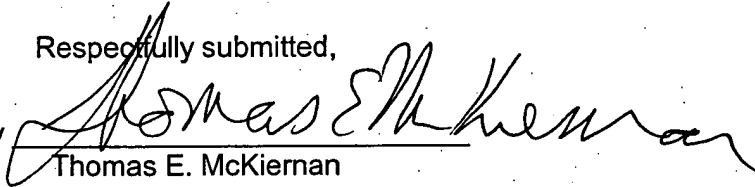
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therefore respectfully requested.

Please charge any fee or credit any overpayment pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17
to Deposit Account No. 02-2135.

Respectfully submitted,

By



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